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Eastland Correspondence: Carter  
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4-4-1978

## Senator James O. Eastland to Walter F. Mondale, 4 April 1978

James O. Eastland

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 4, 1978

*agriculture*

The Vice President  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Vice President:

The early announcements concerning the Administration's new farm policy initiatives indicated taking out 10 million acres of feed grains and one million acres of cotton through a paid land diversion program. This was widely recognized as sound steps that would increase prices to farmers for their 1978 production.

Follow-up regulations outlined for the cotton diversion program are inconsistent with the goal of taking one million acres out of cotton in 1978. Actually, the program as now outlined will increase cotton plantings in several cotton producing areas.

Participants may be paid for diverting 10 percent of their 1978 planted cotton acreage. The payment will be determined by multiplying a two cents per pound payment rate times the established farm yield times the 1978 cotton acreage planted for harvest. This formula encourages rather than discourages 1978 cotton plantings. This is true because the larger the plantings the larger the payment to the individual farmer. This is limited only by the cotton acreage planted on the farm in 1977. Since the paid for diversion is for cropland rather than diversion of cotton acreage, the greatly needed cotton acreage reduction will not be attained in 1978. Consequently, cotton prices have declined approximately 1.25 cents per pound since the program announcement in spite of near record levels of cotton sales for export and actual loadings of export cotton.

Further, market price reductions are anticipated unless the regulations are modified. This can be done by requiring that the acreage diverted from cotton production in 1978 plus the acreage planted in 1978 not exceed the cotton acreage planted on the farm in 1977.



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The Vice President  
April 4, 1978

Your continued attention to this mishandling of cotton program regulations and to other problems confronting our Nation's farmers is greatly appreciated.

Remedial steps are needed immediately.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

U. S. S.

JOE:sm

*(dictated by Jerry Sayre)*